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**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 2009**

SUBJECT: ACCESS SERVICES, INCORPORATED

ACTION: AUTHORIZE FUNDS PROGRAMMING AND RELATED ACTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Program \$54.4 million in federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds to Access Services, Incorporated, (ASI) for fiscal year (FY) 2010.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute funding agreements as needed to provide funds as programmed.

ISSUE

To access \$54.4 million in federal RSTP funds for FY 2010, ASI needs us to program the funds. Federal funds for ASI are not included in our annual budget, as ASI applies for and receives its federal funds directly. Our FY10 budget includes \$34.2 million in Proposition C 40% Discretionary funds, which together with the \$54.4 million in federal funds would provide a total of \$88.6 million for ASI.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

In 1994, ASI was created and separated from LACMTA to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service and to act as the Los Angeles County Consolidated Transportation Service Agency pursuant to Government Code Section 15975. As both an operator and regional planning and programming agency, we continue to have a responsibility to ensure compliance with the ADA.

OPTIONS

The Board of Directors may elect to defer all or part of the recommended programming of \$54.4 million in RSTP funds to ASI. However, we do not recommend deferral, as RSTP funds represent a significant percentage of ASI's funding and we must program RSTP funds before they can be obligated and spent by ASI.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approving our recommendation, along with the non-federal funds already approved in our FY10 budget, will allow us to keep our funding commitment to ASI as provided through the Long Range Transportation Plan for Los Angeles County. Without RSTP funding, we will need to allocate other eligible funding to ASI for the ADA-required services that it provides for us.

BACKGROUND

ASI is a state-mandated local governmental agency created by Los Angeles County's public transit agencies to: (1) administer and manage the delivery of coordinated ADA paratransit service; and (2) coordinate human service agency transportation as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA). In 1994, ASI was organized as a California public benefit corporation and designated as the Los Angeles County CTSA to ensure continued implementation of the coordinated paratransit plan and coordination of specialized transportation in the County.

In December 2002, the Board of Directors instructed us to work with ASI to develop a five-year Strategic and Short Term Business Plan for FY 2005 to FY 2009. Funding, through FY 2009, to implement the ASI Strategic Plan was approved in our Short Range Transportation Plan in February 2004. In February 2008, ASI's FY 2009-2013 draft Strategic and Short Term Business Plan was presented to the Board of Directors. Federal funds for ASI are not included in our budget, as ASI receives its federal funds directly. However, we first must program the federal funds, and this request for FY 2010 continues our practice of programming federal RSTP funds to ASI.

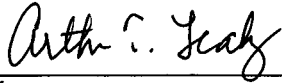
NEXT STEPS

With Board approval of our recommendation, we will obligate the \$54.4 million in RSTP funds for ASI in July 2009.

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